

What is claimed is:

- 1       1. In a VCT control system having a predetermined set point with a set point value and a  
2           set point filter filtering the set point and deriving a filtered set point value, the  
3           control system generates an error signal by subtracting the measured phase value  
4           from the filtered set point value, the control system has a control law for  
5           processing the error signal, and the control system further has a method for  
6           modifying the error signal for reducing the excessive VCT response time caused  
7           by VCT undershooting its filtered set point, the method comprising the steps of:  
8           providing an initial error;  
9           setting the initial error as the error  
10          subtracting the set point value from a phase value if a first set of conditions are  
11           met; and  
12          setting the difference of the above step as the error.
- 1       2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:  
2           subtracting the phase value from the set point value if a second set of conditions  
3           are met; and  
4           setting the difference of the above step as the error.
- 1       3. The method of claim 2, wherein the second set of conditions comprising:  
2           the set point value is less than filtered set point value, and the phase value is less  
3           than the filtered set point value as well; and  
4           the phase value is less than the set point value.
- 1       4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of setting the error to zero if a third  
2           set of conditions are met.
- 1       5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of keeping the initial error as the  
2           error if a fourth set of conditions are met.

- 1     6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first set of conditions comprising:
  - 2             the set point value is greater than filtered set point value, and the phase value is
  - 3             greater than the filtered set point value as well; and
  - 4             the phase value is greater than the set point value.
- 1     7. A VCT control system comprising:
  - 2             a predetermined set point with a set point value;
  - 3             a set point filter filtering the set point and deriving a filtered set point value;
  - 4             an error signal generated by the control system through subtracting the measured
  - 5             phase value from the filtered set point value; and
  - 6             an error zero treatment block having the set point value and the filtered set point
  - 7             value, the error zero treatment block comprising a method generating an
  - 8             error signal for reducing the excessive VCT response time caused by VCT
  - 9             undershooting its filtered set point, the method comprising the steps of:
    - 10            providing an initial error;
    - 11            setting the initial error as the error
    - 12            subtracting the set point value from a phase value if a first set of conditions are
    - 13            met; and
    - 14            setting the difference of the above step as the error.
- 1     8. The system of claim 7 wherein the method further comprising the steps of:
  - 2             subtracting the set point value from a phase value if a second set of conditions are
  - 3             met; and
  - 4             setting the difference of the above step as the error.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the second set of conditions comprising:

the set point value is less than filtered set point value, and the phase value is less than the filtered set point value as well; and

the phase value is less than the set point value.

5 10. The system of claim 7, wherein the method further comprising the steps of setting the error to zero if a third set of conditions are met.1

11. The system of claim 7, wherein the method further comprising the steps of keeping the initial error as the error if a fourth set of conditions are met.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein the first set of conditions comprising:

10 the set point value is greater than filtered set point value, and the phase value is greater than the filtered set point value as well; and

the phase value is greater than the set point value.